

(Received via e-mail)

**From:** Clarence Dilts  
**To:** Pamela Creedon  
**Date:** January 31, 2009 1:53:49 PM PST  
**Subject:** Rubicon Trail

Ms. Creedon:

I am submitting the letter below to the editor of the Mountain Democrat. I have sent a copy to Karen Schambach as well.

Editor:

It appears that sometime between 2004 & 2007 the State of California provided El Dorado County over \$400,000.00 in grants to develop a Trail Management Plan and a Draft Environmental Impact Report that assured the Rubicon Trail, (which has become a playground for extreme off-roading enthusiasts, most of whom are from out-of county), would be managed in compliance with environmental regulations. Accordingly, a consultant was employed and the Trail Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact were completed. The plan included user fees that would have made it self-supporting.

It also appears that County Supervisor Sweeney wasn't impressed. He discarded the plan - claiming that the County couldn't afford to manage the Rubicon - that it would cost the county \$800,000.00 a year. This despite the fact, (as noted above), that the plan included user fees that would have made it self-supporting.

Contrast this situation with the Forest Service's handling of Desolation Wilderness: They have a quota system and a permit fee. Why can't the Rubicon Trail have the same?

When the County asserted ownership of the Rubicon as an unmaintained county road, they also assumed responsibility for ensuring that it doesn't violate water quality standards or other environmental regulations.

Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer for (CVRWQCB), the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, has prepared a draft Clean-up and Abatement Order for the Rubicon Trail. She and her staff deserve considerable credit for taking on the thorny issue of the Rubicon. It's about time someone did.

I guess the next move is up to Mr. Sweeney, sometimes referred to as "King of the county."